a negative trend in loading. The primary reason behind less loading in these two sector was due to non-availability of demand for loading.

(c) The Government has proposed to improve the rail freight revenue in future by increasing the physical loading and by rationalising the tariff structure. To increase the physical loading, Railways are going in for increased proliferation of enhanced axle load running, removal of bottlenecks to traffic, speedier completion of throughput enhancement works and rapid induction of newer rolling stock. Alongwith this, freight marketing schemes in the form of incentives and discounts are being offered to customers to capture newer traffic thereby increasing loading and revenue. This has resulted in an increase of 8.03% in loading in the April-October, 2007 period as compared to April-October, 2006.

High-speed passenger trains

1304. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sought feed back form various States about their willingness to have high-speed passenger trains running throught their territory and possible support in the form of land, right of way to build elevated tracks and equity for the proposed project and 12 States have already expressed interest in the proposal;

(b) if so, what are the total number of States; and

(c) by when the work on these is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Twelve State Governments were approached by Ministry of Railways to find out their willingness for participating in pre-feasibility studies. Out of twelve, nine State Governments namely Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have agreed 'in principle' to participate in any pre-feasibility studies and for possible support in form of land, right of way to build elevated tracks and equity for proposed project.

(c) This proposal is in its initial stages. Pre-feasibility studies are to be conducted. These studies will take about 2 years. On the basis of recommendations of these studies, decision to start the work will be taken.

Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge

1305. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present progress of construction of Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge over Brahmaputra river in Assam and by when the project would be completed;

(b) whether his Ministry is agreeable to have rail-cum-road bridge by the side of Sarai Ghat rail-cum-road bridge in case NHAI agrees to;

(c) whether there is any programme during Eleventh Plan to lay double track railway system from Bongaigaon to Tinsukia Junction under N.F. Railway;